

NHANES 1999-2000 Second Public Data Release
Physical Activity (PAQ)
Sample Person Questionnaire and MEC Interview Questionnaire

Description of Section

The NHANES Physical Activity (PAQ) section questions are found in the Sample Person and MEC Interviews, depending upon the age of the survey participant. The PAQ section includes an extensive array of questions related to daily activities, leisure time activities, and sedentary activities at home. The PAQ questions administered during NHANES 1999-2000 were used in previous NHANES questionnaires or were asked in other federal surveys.

Topics in the PAQ Section:

- Walking or bicycling to work or to do errands.
- Moderate to strenuous tasks done around the house or yard.
- Vigorous leisure time activities, including intensity and duration of activities.
- Moderate leisure time activities, including intensity and duration of activities.
- Activities designed to strengthen muscles.
- Duration of TV and video watching, and computer use outside of work.

Eligible Sample and Exclusion Criteria

All survey participants ages 2 years of age and older are included in the eligible sample. The Sample Person Questionnaire and MEC Interview questionnaires included PAQ items.

The Sample Person Questionnaire included physical activity questions for persons 16+ years of age and for children 2-11 years of age. Proxy respondents answered the physical activity questions for 2-11 year olds. Physical activity questions were asked of adolescents 12-15 years of age as part of the MEC Interview.

Data Processing and Data Editing

The data were edited for completeness, consistency, and illogical values. Many "derived" variables were created. When possible, "other specified" responses to questionnaire items were recoded into pre-existing categories, or additional response categories were created.

Analytic Notes

Extreme care should be exercised in choosing the correct sample weights for data analyses. The PAQ questions for 2-11 year olds, and persons 16 years of age and older should be analyzed using the interview sample weights, and PAQ

questions for youths 12-15 years of age should be analyzed using the MEC examination weights.

Please see the Sample Person Questionnaire Occupation (OCQ) section for questions related to level of physical activity at work.